

Date Night #1

HOW WELL DO YOU KNOW YOUR HOUSE?



HELLO! We're not going to waste any time here. We've got 2 hours and the clock is ticking, so roll up your sleeves and get ready to accomplish a bunch in these next 2 hours!

The **BLACK** text will be the informative parts of this document. The *RED (italicized for the black and white PDF)* text is to make this a little more fun. If you are crunched for time or doing this alone, feel free to skip the *RED (italicized)* text. Whenever you see the *RED ITALICS* for this date night, you will need to record the winner on the bottom half of the last page of this PDF, titled, "Keeping Score." Just a simple tally mark will do. There **WILL** be a winner at the end of this, so...get ready. Each of you put your name in between a set of hearts under "Keeping Score" to keep track.

The printable titled, "House Stuff," has the same 5 headings you see below. Use it to fill out information specific to your home. If you have a clipboard, clip "House Stuff" on there, as well as the "Things Needed" printable, grab a pen, and let's get started!

Part of this Date Night is **ACTUALLY DOING** these things. Don't just read about **HOW** to do them. **DO THEM** (except the gas shut off! That's the only one you **DON'T** want to actually do tonight)!

Gas Shut-Off



With no help or looking ahead, see who can find your gas shut-off first. Give the winner a tally mark under "Keeping Score." Ready, Set, Go!

WHEN TO SHUT YOUR GAS OFF

- ♥ If you smell or hear natural gas leaking
- ♥ If there is a fire close to your home
- ♥ If the authorities tell you to



DO NOT SHUT OFF YOUR GAS ENTIRELY...

unless it is the real deal. It is a good idea to test this, to make sure you know how to do it, but do not turn it all the way. Doing so MAY require your gas company to come out and turn it back on.

WHERE IS YOUR GAS SHUT-OFF?

It will be somewhere outside, usually on the side of your house. It is usually toward the front of the sideyard, because the meter should be in front of the gate.

WHAT TOOLS DO YOU NEED TO SHUT OFF YOUR GAS?

You need a crescent wrench, a pair of heavy-duty pliers, or a shut off tool, to turn the little knob (valve).

See who can find a tool that will do the job first. You must have the tool IN YOUR HAND before the other person to win this one.

Give the winner a tally mark under "Keeping Score." Ready, Set, Go!



Find a tool that will do the job. Decide on a place it will ALWAYS BE. Write it on "House Stuff." The closer the location of the shut-off tool to the gas meter, the better. You could even zip-tie the tool to your meter so it's always there. Make sure to make it loose enough to be able to angle it for use, or you will need a pair of scissors to cut it off before using it! If you do not have one, write it on your "Things Needed" list.



HOW DO YOU SHUT OFF YOUR GAS?

****DO NOT ACTUALLY DO THIS STEP! Don't turn it all the way. Doing so MAY require your gas company to come out and turn it back on!****

Turn the valve a quarter turn until it is perpendicular to the pipe (holes will line up). If the valve is parallel to the pipe, the gas is on.

(Not So) Fun Fact: The holes line up when it is turned off, so the gas company can put a lock on it to shut off your gas if you don't pay your gas bill.

MAKE SURE THE GAS SHUT-OFF SECTION OF "HOUSE STUFF" IS FILLED OUT. ALSO, BE SURE THAT THE TOOL THAT IS NEEDED TO SHUT OFF THE GAS IS ALWAYS GOING TO BE KEPT IN THE SAME PLACE. IF YOU NEED TO PURCHASE A SEPARATE TOOL DESIGNATED FOR GAS SHUT-OFF, ADD IT TO YOUR "THINGS NEEDED" LIST BEFORE MOVING ON. THERE IS AN AMAZON LINK TO A SIMPLE SHUT-OFF TOOL ON THE LINKS PAGE THAT IS INEXPENSIVE AND PERFECT FOR THE JOB.

Water Shut-Off

With no help or looking ahead, see who can find your water shut-off first.
Give the winner a tally mark under "Keeping Score."
Ready, Set, Go!

WHERE IS YOUR WATER SHUT-OFF?

If you live in a warm climate, the water shut-off is under that big cement rectangle in your front yard. If you live in colder climates, the water shut-off is probably in the basement either in the wall or on the water pipe leading to the water heater, or in your crawl space underneath your house.

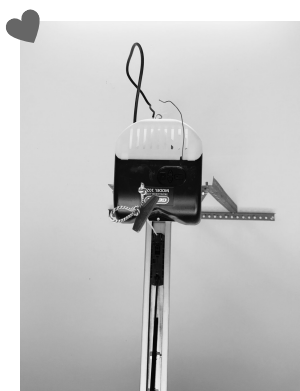
HOW DO YOU SHUT OFF YOUR WATER?

To turn it off, lift up the cement block and twist the valve clockwise until it won't turn anymore. It may have a little handle already that you just turn, or it may look like this one on the right, very similar to the gas shut-off, in which case you would need pliers or a shut-off tool to turn it clockwise.

MAKE SURE THE WATER SHUT-OFF SECTION OF "HOUSE STUFF" IS FILLED OUT. DEPENDING ON THE TYPE OF CONTRAPTION YOU HAVE, YOU MAY NEED A TOOL TO SHUT IT OFF (WHICH COULD BE THE SAME ONE USED FOR THE GAS SHUT-OFF, SO YOU SHOULD EITHER ALREADY HAVE ONE, OR IT SHOULD ALREADY BE ON YOUR "THINGS NEEDED" LIST). AGAIN, MAKE SURE YOU KNOW WHERE THIS TOOL WILL BE AT ALL TIMES. IT ISN'T A BAD IDEA TO STICK IT IN A ZIPLOC BAG AND PUT IT UNDER THE CEMENT COVER, SO IT'S ALWAYS THERE WHEN YOU NEED IT!



Garage Door Manual Operation



Have you ever been stranded at home because you had lost power and your car was stuck in the garage because the garage door wouldn't open? It's worth knowing how to bypass the automatic part and do things manually if the need arises...

Do not disconnect power while the door is up. If you happen to have a broken spring, the full weight of the door could come crashing down, smashing anything in its path, as well as ruining your garage door (and those aren't cheap!!)

DISCONNECTING THE GARAGE DOOR & OPERATING IT MANUALLY

Pull on the red cord hanging down from the trolley (the piece that carries the garage door on the upper track). Pull the rope down & toward the motor (toward your house). The trolley disconnects from the attachment point, and the door is disconnected.

RECONNECTING THE GARAGE DOOR TO THE POWER

Manually:

Pull the red rope down and toward the door itself. This will free the lever to attach to the attachment point. Then lift the garage door until it attaches.

Wait until the power comes back on:

Press your remote control to activate the motor.

MAKE SURE THE GARAGE DOOR SECTION OF "HOUSE STUFF" IS FILLED OUT.



Electricity Shut-Off



With no help or looking ahead, see who can find your ELECTRICAL CIRCUIT BOX first. Give the winner a tally mark under "Keeping Score." Ready, Set, Go!

There are usually two places that provide a way to turn off the electricity.

ELECTRICAL CIRCUIT BOX

Where is the electrical circuit box?

You're probably already familiar with the electrical circuit box. It's where you go when you need to flip a breaker switch when you have tripped a circuit by running too much electricity in a certain place in your house. These switches are located in the **electrical circuit box**, usually either in your basement, laundry room or mudroom, garage, or even outside your home. I was shocked to find it on the outside wall of our home, accessible to anyone! If this is the case, I would strongly recommend putting a lock on it (add that to your "Things Needed" list now).

How do you shut your electricity off from the electrical circuit box?

The breakers will either be switches or pushmatic. Most newer units are switches that switch from left to right. If you have pushmatic circuit breakers, just push on them and they pop out and then pop in when pushed again. To turn off electricity to your home, it is recommended to first turn off each individual breaker and then the main one, usually located at the top.

If any of your circuit breakers are not labeled, contact an electrician to come out and label everything for you, BEFORE you need the information! Add that to the "Things Needed" list if so.

How do you turn the electricity back on from the electrical circuit box?

When turning the electricity back on, make sure all of the individual breakers are switched to off. Turn on the main one at the top first, and then turn on the individual breakers, a few at a time.

ELECTRICAL SERVICE PANEL

With no help or looking ahead, see who can find your ELECTRICAL SERVICE PANEL first. Give the winner a tally mark under "Keeping Score." Ready, Set, Go!

Where is the electrical service panel?

Sometimes it is located on the outside of your home, either in the back or the side yard (usually with your meter). Sometimes it is right next to your Electrical Circuit Box, and your meter has nothing else with it. It just depends on your house.

How do you shut your electricity off from the electrical service panel?

This has individual breakers for each 220 Volt circuit, as well as the 110 Volt circuits on the outside of your home. In addition to these, there is a main switch, usually labeled "Emergency Disconnect," "Service Panel Disconnect," or "Main Shutoff." By switching this, you will cut off ALL power to your home. In an emergency, this is the quickest way to cut all power to your home.

MAKE SURE THE ELECTRICITY SHUT-OFF SECTION OF "HOUSE STUFF" IS FILLED OUT.



Power Outages



Now we're going to take a few minutes and make sure you're prepared for an unexpected power outage. Most of these things are going to sound really basic and seem like common sense, but very few people ACTUALLY have these things in well-known, easily-accessible spots in their homes.

FLASHLIGHTS OR LANTERNS IN EVERY ROOM

Everyone (probably) has flashlights. But what good will 5 flashlights downstairs in your kitchen do when the power goes out and you are upstairs in your bathroom? Do yourself (and your kids) a favor and purchase **enough flashlights/lanterns to have one in every room of the house**. This is simple, fairly cheap, and totally worth it! You may not need to purchase any...let's find out!

*Go round up all of the battery-operated lights that you own right now. Whoever finds the most first wins. Give the winner a tally mark under "Keeping Score."
Ready, Set, Go!*

1. Check them all to make sure they work.
2. Replace all batteries that need to be replaced.
3. Ensure you have backup batteries for all of them.
4. Find an easily accessible place in every room for a flashlight or lantern and put one in each room.

Lanterns are really great to provide steady light and it's nice to not have to constantly be holding a flashlight. If you find that you need to purchase some flashlights, lanterns, and/or batteries, put it on your "Things Needed" list and move on. When you get to the end, be sure to check out the provided link for the Life Gear flashlight/lanterns. They are comparable in price to just flashlights or just lanterns, but they function as both. They are awesome.

You can also involve your kids and let them each choose their own flashlights and let them decide where they want to keep them in their bedrooms (right by their pillow is a good idea). For now, just make sure to add these to your list.

CANDLES & MATCHES/LIGHTERS

For extended amounts of time without power, candles are a good option for lighting up a room for long periods of time. Candles are great because they provide consistent, static light, and they are CHEAP! Make sure you have plenty of matches and/or lighters to go with them. Discuss what you would want...how much burn time you need to accomplish what you want to with them, etc, and add them to "Things Needed."

POWER BANK CHARGERS

What would you do without your cell phone for a WHOLE DAY?!?! How about a week? Have you considered the effects of a lengthy power outage? These power bank chargers are pretty much amazing. Be sure to always have it charged...it's not going to do you any good if you don't check it occasionally to make sure it is all juiced up! These also come in handy on long day trips to amusement parks, etc, so you are sure not to end up with a dead phone halfway through your day. Things to consider: some take longer to charge your phone than others, some take longer to charge the actual power bank up, some of them have one USB so you can only charge one device at a time, others have multiple, etc. Decide if this is a purchase you would like to make, and add it to your list of "Things Needed" if you want to look into them later.

CORDED PHONE

A corded phone will still work even when the electricity is out. And even when your cell phone battery is dead. You can get one for a few dollars on Amazon and tuck it away just in case...

Power Outages Continued



CARBON MONOXIDE DETECTORS BATTERY BACK-UP

If you have the type of carbon monoxide detectors that plug into the wall, make sure they have a battery backup. Check the batteries and change them if needed.

KEEP A THERMOMETER IN YOUR FRIDGE & A SEPARATE ONE IN YOUR FREEZER

Always keep a thermometer **INSIDE** your fridge and your freezer. This is so that you know what temperature the food is at when the power is restored. If the temperature has been 40 degrees or above for over 2 hours, you should throw out all of your food. If you don't have one in **EACH** fridge and freezer that you own, put it on the "Things Needed" list, and be sure to write how many you need. These are super inexpensive and are linked at the end.

SOME BASICS FOR POWER OUTAGES:

KEEP FRIDGE & FREEZER CLOSED

The less times you open your fridge/freezer, the colder everything will stay, and the less likely you are to lose all of your food. As soon as a power outage occurs, we immediately implement the rule that adults are the only ones allowed to open the fridge or freezer. (I like to put a piece of tape over the handle to remind everyone). Most refrigerated items will only stay cold for about 4 hours. A full freezer will keep its temperature for about 48 hours.



DISCONNECT APPLIANCES & ELECTRONICS

This is to prevent any damage to your personal belongings if there were to be a power surge when the power comes back on.

GENERATORS, CAMP STOVES, AND CHARCOAL GRILLS

These items should be used outdoors and away from any windows. If you have any of these items, be sure to review how to use them. Ensure you have extra fuel for these items, and make sure you know where everything is. Add any info that applies to these items to the bottom of "House Stuff."

Congratulations! You're done!

See? That wasn't so bad, was it? And just think of ALL the possible emergencies you are now prepared for. Doesn't it feel good?? Turn the page and go through the checklist and make sure you didn't miss anything. And get ready for next week - it's probably the most important date night out of all 4 this month. You will **NOT** want to miss it! ♥



Date Night #1 Checklist

- ♥ **MAKE SURE YOU ACTUALLY HAVE ALL OF THE ITEMS ON "THINGS NEEDED" THAT YOU WOULD LIKE TO HAVE. EVEN IF YOU CAN'T PURCHASE THEM TONIGHT, GET THEM ON YOUR LIST SO YOU HAVE IT HANDY. THAT WAY WHEN YOU HAVE \$20, YOU CAN GO BACK TO YOUR LIST AND EASILY FIND SOMETHING YOU KNOW YOU NEED. IF YOU DON'T WRITE THEM DOWN, YOU WILL LIKELY FORGET ABOUT THESE ITEMS, AND MAY REGRET IT!**

**GAS SHUT-OFF TOOL
WATER SHUT-OFF TOOL
FLASHLIGHTS / LANTERNS
EXTRA BATTERIES
CANDLES / MATCHES / LIGHTERS
POWER BANK CHARGER
CORDED PHONE
THERMOMETER FOR EACH FRIDGE & FREEZER**

- ♥ **HOP ONLINE OR MAKE A TARGET RUN IF YOU PREFER, AND MAKE ANY PURCHASES YOU CAN TONIGHT. JUST GET IT DONE WHILE YOU ARE TOGETHER AND IT'S ALL FRESH IN YOUR HEAD. FOR LINKS TO RECOMMENDED ITEMS, GO TO [HTTPS://PLANFORAWESOME.COM/DATE-NIGHT-LINKS/](https://planforawesome.com/date-night-links/)**

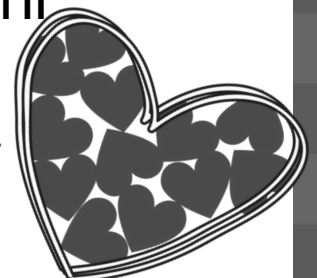
- ♥ **SECURE TOOLS NEEDED FOR EACH ITEM AS CLOSE TO THE ITEM AS POSSIBLE**

- ♥ **MAKE SURE "HOUSE STUFF" IS COMPLETELY FILLED OUT**

- ♥ **TAKE A SELFIE WITH YOUR COMPLETED LIST AND SHARE IT ON INSTAGRAM AND/OR FACEBOOK. TAG ANYONE WHO COULD USE SOME HELP KNOCKING OUT SOME PREPAREDNESS STUFF THIS MONTH!
ALSO, GO COMMENT ON [PLANFORAWESOME.COM/DATE-NIGHT-CHALLENGE/](https://planforawesome.com/date-night-challenge/) AND LET US KNOW YOU'VE COMPLETED DATE NIGHT #1!**

- ♥ **LAMINATE "HOUSE STUFF" OR STICK IT IN A SHEET PROTECTOR AND PUT IT SOMEWHERE SAFE AND ACCESSIBLE**

- ♥ *Now count up your points and see who the winner is for tonight. The winner gets to choose one flashlight/lantern to have on tonight when you go to bed...wink, wink!!*



House Stuff



GAS SHUT-OFF

TOOLS
WHERE
HOW

WATER SHUT-OFF

TOOLS
WHERE
HOW

ELECTRICITY SHUT-OFF

WHERE
HOW

GARAGE DOOR - MANUALLY TURN OFF/ON

HOW TO TURN OFF
HOW TO TURN ON

POWER OUTAGES

KEEP FRIDGE & FREEZER CLOSED

When power is restored, check temp. If it has been 40 degrees or above for over 2 hours, throw out all food.

DISCONNECT APPLIANCES & ELECTRONICS

Things Needed



For links to recommended items, go to
<https://planforawesome.com/date-night-links/>



Keeping Score





